

(a) whether the Indian Overseas Bank has introduced a loan scheme for people going to gulf countries;

(b) if so, the terms and condition laid down under the scheme;

(c) whether this scheme has been introduced in every branch of Indian Overseas Bank; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to introduce the scheme in all the branches of Indian Overseas Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). According to Indian Overseas Bank, they have a scheme for sanctioning loans to persons proceeding to places in Gulf region, for meeting the passage fare. Under the scheme, Indian Nationals holding valid passports, visa/no-objection certificate and firm offer of employment are eligible for a maximum loan of Rs.10,000/- at a minimum interest rate of 18.0% per annum, repayable in 20 monthly instalments alongwith interest. Such loans are given on a guarantee of two persons. At present, Indian Overseas Bank is implementing the scheme in its branches in Kerala only.

Tea Plantation in Orissa

6035. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the different regions/districts in Orissa where tea plantation has been started;

(b) whether the climatic conditions in some other forest and tribal districts in the State are also favorable for tea plantation;

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase areas under the plantation in Orissa;

(d) whether possibility has been explored to cultivate tea in Mohendra Giri and other hilly areas in Ganjam district of Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Tea plantation has been started in Bhuyanpirih tea garden situated in Keonjhar District in Orissa.

(b) and (c). Preliminary reports indicate that approximately 2800 hectares in Thumamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi Distt. and Darangabadi in Phulbani Distt. are suitable for tea cultivation. Tea Board has sanctioned an amount of Rs.25 lakhs towards setting up tea nurseries as a first step for raising tea plants in the area.

(d) Possibility has not been explored in the said area so far.

(e) Does not arise.

Performance of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions

6036. SHRIGOPINATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of public sector banks and financial institutions during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government had a proposal to review and monitor the Centrally sponsored schemes in which these banks are involved; and

(d) If so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have been reviewing the performance of public sector banks and financial institutions on an on going basis. Appropriate instructions for taking necessary corrective measure are issued to them from time-to-time.

(c) and (d). The performance of various Central Government Sponsored Schemes are periodically reviewed by the Board of Directors of public sector banks, Reserve Bank of India and Government of India and steps, as are necessary, taken to make these schemes more effective and responsive to the needs of the people.

319 *Export*
Disbursing of Duty Drawback Amount to Exporters

6037. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDEL-
AWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not been disbursing the Duty Drawback amount to the exporters for the last twelve months:

(b) If so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the time by which it will be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) Government have been disbursing duty drawback amounts to exporters for the last twelve months as usual.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

319
Revitalisation Programme for Public
Sector Shipyards

6038. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed a revitalisation programme for public sector shipyards;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would generate more capital in the shipping industry; and

(d) If so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). A number of steps are presently under consideration of the Govt. for revival of the Shipyards. These include capital restructuring, upward revision of Govt. subsidy payable for construction of ocean going vessels, duty free imports upto 50% of realisable price of vessels etc.

(c) and (d). While revitalisation programme of public sector shipyards will have no direct bearing on the generation of capital in the shipping industry, it will certainly have a beneficial effect on the financial position of the public sector shipyards.

320
Merger of MITCO with MMTC

6039. SHRI BINODE BIHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mica Trading Corporation (MITCO) has been merged with Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC);

(b) If so, when and the reason thereof;

(c) whether all the employees of MITCO have been given the MMTC scales of pay after the merger;

(d) If so, the facts in details; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?